

at the time the information is submitted or a reasonable time thereafter, that disclosure of the information could reasonably be expected to cause substantial competitive harm.

(5) The information requested has not been designated by the submitter as in accordance with paragraph (b) of this Section, and the submitter had an opportunity to do so at the time of submission of the information or a reasonable time thereafter, unless the component has reason to believe that disclosure of the information would result in substantial competitive harm; or

(6) The designation made by the submitter in accordance with these regulations appears obviously frivolous; except that in such case, the component must provide the submitter with written notice of any final administrative disclosure determination within a reasonable number of days prior to the specified disclosure date.

(h) *Notice of FOIA lawsuit.* Whenever a requester brings suit seeking to compel disclosure of confidential commercial information covered by paragraph (b) of this section, the component shall promptly notify the business submitter.

(i) *Notice requirements.* The component shall fulfill the notice requirements of this section by addressing the notice to the business submitter or its legal successor at the address indicated on the records, or the last known address. If the notice is returned, the component shall make a reasonable effort to locate the business submitter or its legal successor. Where notification of a voluminous number of submitters is required, such notification may be accomplished by posting and publishing the notice in a place reasonably calculated to accomplish notification.

§ 70.27 Preservation of records.

Each component shall preserve all correspondence relating to the requests it receives under this part, and all records processed pursuant to such requests, until such time as the destruction of such correspondence and records is authorized pursuant to title 44 of the United States Code. Under no circumstances shall records be destroyed while they are the subject of a

pending request, appeal, or lawsuit under the Act.

Subpart C—Costs for Production of Documents

§ 70.38 Definitions.

The following definitions apply to the terms of this subpart.

(a) The term a *statute specifically providing for setting the level of fees for particular types of records* (See 5 U.S.C. 552(a)(4)(A)(vi)), means any statute other than FOIA that specifically requires a Government agency to establish a fee schedule for particular types of records. An example of such a statute is section 205(c) of the Labor-Management Reporting and Disclosure Act, as amended, 29 U.S.C. 435(c). Statutes such as the User Fee Statute which only provide a general discussion of fees without explicitly requiring that an agency set and collect fees for particular documents are not within the meaning of this term.

(b) The term *direct costs* means those expenditures which an agency actually incurs in searching for and duplicating (and in the case of a commercial requester, reviewing) documents to respond to an FOIA request. Direct costs includes the salary of the employee performing the work and the cost of operating duplicating machinery, and when appropriate the cost of the medium in which the information is made available.

(c) The term *duplication* means the process of making a copy of a document necessary to respond to a FOIA request. Such copies can take the form of paper copy, microform, audio-visual materials or machine-readable documentation (e.g., magnetic tape or disk), among others.

(d) The term *search* means the process of looking for material that is responsive to a FOIA request; including page-by-page or line-by-line identification of materials within documents or, when available, use of an existing computer program. Searches do not include the review of material, as defined in § 70.38(e), which is performed to determine whether material is exempt from disclosure.

(e) The term *review* means the process of examining documents located in

response to a request that is for a commercial use, as defined in § 70.38 (f), to determine whether any portion of the document located is exempt from disclosure, and accordingly may be withheld. It also includes the act of preparing materials for disclosure, *i.e.* doing all that is necessary to excise them and otherwise prepare them for release. Review does not include time spent resolving general legal or policy issues regarding the application of exemptions.

(f) The term *commercial use request* means a request from one who seeks information for a use or purpose that furthers the commercial, trade or profit interests of the requester or the person or entity on whose behalf the request was submitted. When a request is submitted by a commercial entity or its representative and from the nature of the information sought it appears the request is to further the objective of that entity, the request will be treated as a commercial use request unless the requester indicates that the information is being sought for a non-commercial purpose. Where a requester indicates that the information is being sought for a non-commercial purpose, the disclosure officer will evaluate the requester's submission and determine how the request is to be treated. While requests by non-profit organizations would normally fall outside the commercial use category, when the disclosure officer determines that a request by such an entity or one acting on its behalf does further the entity's commercial interests, he or she may treat the request as a commercial use request.

(g) The term *educational institution* means:

(1) An institution which is a pre-school, a public or private elementary or secondary school, an institution of undergraduate higher education, an institution of graduate higher education, an institution of professional education, or an institution of vocational education, and

(2) Operates a program or programs of scholarly research. To qualify under this definition, the program of scholarly research in connection with which the information is sought must be carried out under the auspices of the aca-

demic institution itself as opposed to the individual scholarly pursuits of persons affiliated with an institution. For example, a request from a professor to assist him or her in writing a book independent of his or her institutional responsibilities would not qualify under this definition, whereas a request predicated upon research funding granted to the institution would meet its requirements. Likewise, a request from a student enrolled in an individual course of study at an educational institution would not qualify as a request from the institution.

(h) The term *non-commercial scientific institute* means an institution that is not operated on a *commercial* basis as that term is defined in § 70.38(f), and that is operated solely for the purpose of conducting scientific research, the results of which are not intended to promote any particular product or industry.

(i) The term *representative of the news media* means any person actively gathering news for an entity that is organized and operated to publish or broadcast news to the public. Factors indicating such representation status include press accreditation, guild membership, a history of continuing publication, business registration, and/or Federal Communication Commission licensing, among others. For purpose of this definition the term *news* contemplates information that is about current events or that would be of current interest to the public. A freelance journalist shall be treated as a representative of the news media if the person can demonstrate a solid basis for expecting publication of matters related to the requested information through a qualifying news media entity. A publication contract with a qualifying news media entity satisfies this requirement. An individual's past publication record with organizations of the foregoing nature is also relevant to this determination. Examples of news media entities include:

(1) Television or radio stations broadcasting to the public at large, and

(2) Publishers of periodicals including newsletters (but only in those instances where they can qualify as disseminators of news) who make their

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products available for purchase or subscription by the general public.

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§ 70.39 Statutes specifically providing for setting of fees.

Nothing in this subpart shall supersede fees chargeable under a statute other than the Freedom of Information Act which specifically provides for setting the level of fees for particular types of records.

§ 70.40 Charges assessed for the production of records.

(a) There are three types of charges assessed in connection with the production of agency records in response to a Freedom of Information Act request: costs associated with

(1) Searching for or locating responsive records (search costs),

(2) Reproducing such records (reproduction costs), and

(3) Reviewing records to determine whether any materials are exempt (review costs).

(b) There are four types of FOIA requesters:

(1) Commercial use requesters,

(2) Educational and non-commercial scientific institutions,

(3) Representatives of the news media, and

(4) All other requesters.

Depending upon the nature of the requester, one or all of the foregoing costs may be assessed. Paragraph (c) of this section sets forth the extent to which the foregoing costs may be assessed against each type of requester. Paragraph (d) of this section establishes the actual rate to be charged in connection with each of the foregoing types of costs. Paragraph (e) delineates the manner in which costs are to be assessed against an individual seeking access to records about himself or herself which are covered by the Privacy Act.

(c) (1) *Commercial use requester.* When a commercial use requester as defined in § 70.38(f) makes a request for documents, search costs, reproduction costs and review costs may be assessed in their entirety.

(2) *Educational or non-commercial, scientific institution requester.* When an

educational or non-commercial scientific institution requester, as defined in §§ 70.38 (g) and (h), makes a request, only reproduction costs may be assessed, excluding charges for the first 100 pages.

(3) *Request by representative of news media.* When a representative of the news media as defined in § 70.38(i) makes a request, only reproduction costs may be assessed, excluding charges for the first 100 pages.

(4) *All other requesters.* Requesters who do not fall within paragraphs (c)(1), (2), and (3) of this section may be charged search costs and reproduction costs, except that the first 100 pages of reproduction and the first two hours of search time shall be furnished without charge. Where computer searches are involved, i.e., executing an existing program, however, the monetary equivalent of two hours of search time by a professional employee shall be deducted from the total costs of computer processing time.

(d)(1) *Search costs.* When a search for records is performed by a clerical employee, a rate of \$2.50 per quarter hour will be applicable. When a search is performed by professional or supervisory personnel, a rate of \$5.00 per quarter hour will be applicable. If the search for requested records requires transportation of the searcher to the location of the records or transportation of the records to the searcher, all transportation costs in excess of \$5.00 may be added to the search cost. When an existing computer program is employed to locate records responsive to a request, the disclosure officer may charge the actual cost of providing the service.

(2) *Reproduction costs.* The standard copying charge for documents in paper copy is \$.15 per page. When responsive information is provided in a format other than paper copy, such as in the form of computer tapes and discs, the requester may be charged the direct costs of the tape, disc or whatever medium is used to produce the information, as well as any related reproduction costs.

(3) *Review costs.* Costs associated with the review of documents, as defined in § 70.38(c), will be applicable at a rate of \$5.00 per quarter hour. Except as noted